

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8743

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2027

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SG, CG

SUBJ: SENEGALESE PRIME MINISTER URGES FURTHER US RESPONSE

TO ZAIRE SITUATION/ COMMENDS PRESIDENT CARTER FOR UN

ADDRESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS STAND

REF: A. STATE 64155, B. STATE 64066, C. STATE 60065,

D. DAKAR 1974, E. STATE 62223, F. STATE 60208, G.

DAKAR 1980

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER DIOUF INDICATES GOS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER ZAIRE DEVELOPMENTS AND FAVORS FIRM US RESPONSE TO AVOID LEAVING FIELD TO COMMUNISTS AND ALLOWING ANGOLAN SITUATION TO BECOME "ANGOLA-ZAIRE SITUATION." DIOUF SAID PRESIDENT SENGHOR WOULD BE CONVOKING AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS ZAIRE. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE PRIOR TO ANTICIPATED PRESIDENTIAL MEETING. DIOUF ALSO APPLAUDED CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ITS POLICIES TOWARD THIRD WORLD. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 23 AMBASSADOR DREW ON TALKING POINTS PROVIDED REFTEL A AND SITREP CONTAINED REF B TO BRIEF SENEGALESE PRIME MINNSTER ABDOU DIOUF ON ZAIRE SITUATION. DIOUF EXPRESSED SENEGAL'S DEEP CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN ZAIRE. CONFIDENTIAL

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WHILE HE SAID SENEGAL UNDERSTOOD AMERICAN CONCERN OVER MILITARY SALES TO LDC'S AND OUR DESIRE TO AVOID GREAT POWER CONFRONTATION IN AFRICA, IT REMAINED HOPEFUL THAT STRONGER MEASURES COULD BE TAKEN TO PRESERVE ZAIRE'S INTEGRITY AND PREVENT "ANGOLAN SITUATION" FROM EXPANDING INFO "ANGOLA/ZAIRESITUATION." DIOUF RECALLED THAT POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER ANGOLA ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA HAD BEEN CONSIDERED

DURING MAY 1976 DAKAR VISIT BY FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER; DIOUF SAID DISCUSSIONS HAD EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE THAT US TAKE STRONG POSITION IN ANY FUTURE INCIDENTS TO AVOID GIVING COMMUNISTS FIELD DAY IN BELIEF US WOULD NOT ACT. PRIME MINISTER INDICATED PRESIDENT SENGHOR WAS VERY DISTURBED ABOUT THREATS TO LIBERTY IN AFRICA AND WOULD PROBABLY BE CONVOKING AMBASSADOR SHORTLY FOR DISCUSSION OF ZAIRE.

3. DIOUF SAID HE HAD VERY MUCH APPRECIATED SECRETARY VANCE'S MESSAGE (REFS C AND D) CONCERNING OUR REQUEST FOR DAKAR LANDING RIGHTS FOR FIRST FLIGHT IN ZAIRE AIRLIFT. HE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR WHO HAD AGREED THAT IT WAS PERFECTLY NORMAL THAT DAKAR SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THAT PURPOSE. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH SENEGALESE POSITION SINCE WE WOULD BE IN CLOSE TOUCH ON OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO ZAIRE SITUATION.

4. PRIME MINISTER SAID GOS WAS ALSO DISTRESSED BY SITUATION IN CONGO. IT WAS, HE SAID, FAR-FETCHED TO BELIEVE THAT MASSAMBA DEBAT WAS INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATION. DISPLAYING AFP REPORT THAT ARCHBISHOP HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO BUSH AND SHOT, DIOUF CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN SITUATION IN CONGO AS WELL AS ZAIRE.

5. AMBASSADOR ALSO DESCRIBED MAIN LINES OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S MARCH 17 UN ADDRESS AND PROVIDED AIDE MEMOIRE BASED ON REF E AND COPY OF COMPLETE TEXT. DIOUF PRAISED CONFIDENTIAL

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CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN GENERAL AND SPECIFICALLY WELCOMED ITS POLICIES TOWARD THIRD WORLD. HE CITED US INTENTION TO COMMIT MORE FUNDS TO BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE AND AMERICAN INITIATIVES IN NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. PRIME MINISTER ALSO WARMLY WELCOMED US EFFORTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. (HE REMARKED THAT SENEGAL HAD RECEIVED ONLY "FAIR GRADE" AS "PARTLY FREE" IN US HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT BUT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS CONCLUSION REPRESENTED VIEW OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND NOT USG ASSESSMENT.) DIOUF TERMED US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY "LAUDABLE."

6. ANY FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE PRIOR TO ANTICIPATED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR WOULD BE WELCOME.
AGGREY

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Message Attributes

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